

# THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser.

WALTER G. SMITH - - EDITOR.

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It is not surprising that the comic side of certain aspirations to high office begins to show itself even to those who are nursing them.

If Mr. Loebenstein wants to go to Washington why doesn't he go? To cloud up every few days and never rain is hardly a Hilo characteristic.

The closing of Oahu College is working a hardship to a number of young people who had hoped to prepare for entrance at Mainland universities next year. Considering who the Oahu students are and where they come from and the fact that the classrooms are not crowded, it might be practicable to exempt the college from the rule closing the public schools. We doubt that harm would be done by this concession.

Professor Crowell's article, printed elsewhere, on the cane sugar situation in the tropics and the prospects of the industry, will allay apprehensions about any extraordinary increase in the output of Cuba and the Philippines during the next few years. While those places could produce enormously if they were worked with Hawaiian thoroughness, the kind of labor they are hampered with is pretty certain to keep them back.

We are glad to note the evidence of a chastened spirit in the Bishop Estate. The trustees of the property are filling up their submerged land at Kakaako and causing old shacks to be burned. They have also denied leases of property which might become insalubrious to people who wanted the land to live on. This is moving in the right way, and may be accepted as a cheerful augury of the time when the Bishop Estate will be a property upon which the sanitary authorities will have no reason to look with disfavor.

A British local contemporary says that Englishmen will lose no sleep of nights over the predictions of disaster made by German and Russian specialists. The trouble with our British cousins, as the Beecham shows, is that they have slept too much and too long while their army and perhaps their navy were going from bad to worse. The awakening has been rude, and it will be their own fault if Britons go back to their slumbers. It is no light thing even for Great Britain to face the hostility of all Europe with its millions of drilled men and its superior naval strength. The wise Briton will cultivate insomnia until he gets in a position either to divide his national enemies or to placate or resist them.

The cemetery question may as well be revived now that sanitary reform is the uppermost topic. Local burial grounds are crowded and one of the first remedial measures taken should be to forbid further interments in them save perhaps in family plots not yet fully occupied. Honolulu needs a new cemetery several miles from Fort Street in some locality not likely to feel the effects of urban growth for many years hence. An objection to the move has come from poor people who cannot afford to go on long expeditions with their dead at the present rate of hearse and carriage hire. One way to obviate this difficulty would be for the Rapid Transit company to locate a big graveyard at one end of its system and put on a funeral car which would be hired for the transportation of a body and forty or fifty people with it at an expense of say \$10. The sale of lots would pay for keeping up the cemetery and yield an interest on the investment. That is the way the San Mateo electric and other street lines have solved the problem in San Francisco, where the funeral car is now regarded as a great public convenience and economy.

Editor Advertiser: In one of last week's Advertisers you claim Lord Roberts was born in India. He may have been born there, but he has always claimed he was an Irishman. I enclose you a clipping taken from "Tid-Bits," London, which also claims he is Irish. In addition to him, Lord Wolseley, the commander-in-chief of the British army, is an Irishman also. Sir Charles Butler, late in command of the British in South Africa, is a Tipperary man.

According to the encyclopedias, Lord Roberts of Kandahar was born in Cawnpore, India, in 1832. His ancestry is not given, but common report says that it was Irish. There is nothing surprising in finding men of Irish origin holding high rank in the British army, as their fighting spirit has always been appreciated there, and they have been given every chance to get ahead. The same is true of the Irish in other high spheres of action. The late Foreign Minister of Austria, Count Taaffe, was of Irish blood, as was President MacMahon of France, Admiral Lynch of Peru, and Admiral O'Higgins of Chile. General Sheridan and Presidents Andrew Jackson and Chester A. Arthur, of the United States. The Duke of Tetuan of Spain harks back to the green sod, and the list might be extended with a long array of historical characters.

## HEW TO THE LINE.

A new centre of plague infection has shown itself. This time it is at the Hotel Stables, on the corner of Richards and Hotel streets.

The Japanese who died at the corner of Nuuanu and Kukui streets on the night of January 21st, moved there on the 20th from the Hotel Stables, where he worked and slept. He was sick when he moved. The house in which he died was burned. The stable where he was taken sick was "disinfected," and continued to do business.

On Thursday last a second man working at the Hotel Stables was taken sick, and on Sunday night he also died of the plague.

When the Japanese above mentioned died, his fellow Japanese laborers were segregated, but the stable was not quarantined. Yesterday the Asiatic employees of the stable were quarantined, but the stable was not, and it is still open for business.

The Board of Health examined the stable yesterday afternoon and adjourned without action, to meet again this afternoon.

Dr. Wood has furnished the slogan of the campaign against the plague. It is that "locality," far more than personal contact, is the distributor of infection.

The Pantheon Stable was a whole sermon on the "locality" text. A case originated there. The house on Wylie street, where the victim spent a few hours, was burned. The stable was "disinfected" and remained open for business. Two weeks or so later Hartmann and the South street Japanese, both employees of the Pantheon, were taken with plague.

The announced policy of the Board is to burn every building in which a plague case has originated or been located for any length of time, unless the building is of such a character that it can be absolutely cleansed.

In pursuance with the broader precautionary policy that adjacent buildings which were of such a general construction that they would readily become refuges for rats, are plague centers, they also have been condemned and burned.

The Hotel Stables has been the place of origin of two cases of plague; both fatal. They are open, rambling sheds, impossible of disinfection. Rats infest every stable of this character.

It is to be hoped that it will not be necessary to wait for three victims before action is taken.

We ask, and the Sanitary Committee asks, that the Board, having laid down its principles, shall hew to the line.

## FILTH THE MENACE.

Dr. Wood's statement that plague may linger with us for a year, appearing in sporadic cases, is based upon the presence of filth in the soil. We are face to face with the distressing circumstance that the ground upon which Honolulu is built is polluted. People have lived here for a great while, possibly for over a thousand years, and the dead under foot are legion. We are crowding our modern burial grounds with bodies, some of which, as in the lower part of the King street cemetery, are said to rest in water which drains into the inhabited marshes beyond. But the chief source of infection is the excreta which has been so long piling up in some thousands of cesspools and saturating the earth under and near houses where people live.

It is appalling to think how vast this factor of insanitation is, both in bulk and power of mischief. For years filth has been gathering here at the rate of from fifteen to twenty tons a day. The excavators, two in number, have not begun to keep even with it. We doubt, from all we hear and see, that they have half tried. The agent of the Board of Health says they carry four tons each and are capable of from six to eight trips per day. If their services had worked out that way we might now have no plague, but the condition of Chinatown, and of Honolulu generally, shows that the achievements of the excavators were quite as much of a delusion in the three or four years preceding the coming of the black death as were most of the other activities of the old Board of Health.

We are getting more excavators now and an aroused public sentiment and a vigilant press may be depended on to see that they do their duty. What Honolulu needs is a system by which every cesspool in town will be emptied at least once a month and the process kept up until, by the construction of sewers, the use of cesspools may be prohibited by law. If we are rightly informed, there are now four excavators at work or one for every ten thousand people. Four more are coming, and there will then be one for every five thousand people. We believe, under a perfect organization, that there should be one excavator to every 1,000 people, and a careful districting of the city that they serve. Certainly, eight excavators are not enough if any impression is to be made on the filth already underground.

No matter what the process may cost, Honolulu ought to purify its soil as much and as soon as possible. Trees and shrubs do something to that end and rain-water, driving impurities in-

to the black sand, may help. But the main thing is to keep filth from accumulating while the sewer system is making ready. Let the expense be what it pleases, the burden would be lighter than a year's sufferance of the plague.

Speaking of rats, the way is still open to kill them if the public will go about it aright. A bit of raw meat with suitable poison may be depended on to do the business every time.

## OF CURRENT INTEREST.

### Fall of a Great Temple.

It is just about a year ago that attention was directed to the splendid success that was attending the efforts of the Egyptian Government to restore the great temple of Karnak, at Luxor, to somewhat of its ancient glory. The Department of Antiquities was engaged all the year on digging out and strengthening the enormous columns of the great hypostyle hall. All was going on well and the sublime proportions of the great hall were being made clear, when, recently, one of the great columns, which are about seventy-one feet high, and weigh many tons, fell over against another in such a way as to over throw ten other columns, all piling up against each other like fallen bricks in a row. At the same time the great stone architraves fell down, released from all support, and the ruin was so lamentable that those who were carrying on the work were clear disheartened.

A survey has now taken place, and it is calculated that the mischief can be remedied in part, and the temple saved from the worst, at a cost of \$20,000. Just what caused the disaster is not known.

### An Arctic Tropical State.

"As my train pulled out of Dallas I was eating strawberries grown in Southern Texas, and yet there was two inches of snow on the ground and the temperature was at the freezing point," said E. H. R. Green, president of the Texas Midland Railway, in Washington the other day. "Such are the extremes of climate in our great State, that in the northern end a blizzard may be raging, while in the Gulf country it may be balmy springtime. Texas is in an enviable condition. Nominally, it is Democratic, but its best people are in line with the McKinley Administration. Expansion, sound money, and a protective tariff are favored by the leading citizens of the Lone Star State. The next census will show that Texas has a population of not less than 4,000,000 souls, being a 25 per cent increase over the census of 1890."

### "Russian Whist."

It will be interesting to see, as an Eastern paper suggests, whether we shall follow the example of our transatlantic cousins in the mania for "bridge" or "Russian whist," which is now all the rage in London, and in many card circles has made whist as obsolete as "Boston." It is a sort of dummy whist. Different suits of cards give different values to the tricks, the red suit, for example, being more valuable than the black. The dealer does not turn up a trump card, but has the privilege of making any suit he pleases trumps, or may declare no trumps, which increases the value of the tricks. This value also may be doubled again and again by the holders of good hands, so that it is a game of uncertainties. The best authorities use the American leads, which are rather dropping out of use in English whist.

### Orthodox.

W. F. Cody had in one of his companies a Westerner, "Bronco Bill." A certain missionary had joined the aggregation to look after the morals of the Indians, relates the Baltimore Herald. Thinking that Bronco Bill would bear a little looking after also, the good man secured a seat by his side at the dinner table and remarked pleasantly, "This is Mr. Bronco Bill, is it not?" "Yaas." "Where were you born?" "Near Kit Bullard's mill, on Big Pigeon." "Religious parents, I suppose?" "Yaas." "What is your denomination?" "My what?" "Your denomination?" "O-ah-yaas. Smith & Wesson."

### Pig's Milk in Favor.

Mme. Roydne, described as a Breton peasant woman, announces the discovery that pig's milk used instead of the milk of the cow for babies will transform the French race into a nation of physical giants. What moral and mental effect the new diet will have does not seem to have been considered, and Paris is said to be more or less enthusiastic for trying it. Several medical specialists indorse the idea and say that pig's milk is light and fattening, rich in nutrition and free from the dangers of tuberculosis.

### "Kalamazoo" on the Nile.

President Angell, of Michigan University, says that when traveling up the Nile some years ago he was seated on a donkey approaching the ancient ruins of Abydos when he engaged his Egyptian guide in conversation as well as his Western Arabic would permit. "Do you give names to your donkeys?" asked the Professor. "Oh, yes," was the reply. "This one is called Kalamazoo."

### The "Kode of Georger" Wanted.

The following letter was received the other day by a bookseller of Atlanta: "Dear Sir: Will you please send me a Kode of Georger, so I kin know how to practive the Law I been studyin all winter? I want to be Rite when I get up in Court for my kilants which come to my Pertecahin, so I want a Kode of Georger, in big Type, so I kin spell my way through without Trubble. So, please send me a Kode of Georger."

### One Danger Averted.

On Admiral Dewey's return from East India some years ago he was operated on at Malta for an abscess of the liver. Speaking of this the other day, he said: "When I consider how much of me was cut away, I think it was remarkable. But there is one consolation—I haven't enough liver left to be bilious again."

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Contracts have been let for material, and the work of construction, equipping and installation placed in the hands of a competent electrical engineer to be fully completed by June 1st. Having an independent power plant we are prepared to furnish electric power for lighting, heating and other purposes, to our home builders at most reasonable rates.

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